BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-03* *January 21st, 2011*

- **BC's population passes 4.5 million**
- **Retail sales in BC climb 1.3% in November**
- **Sales of goods manufactured in BC jump 1.5% in November**

Population

- **Between July 1st 2009 and June 30th 2010 British Columbia's population exceeded the 4.5 million mark (+1.6%), representing an increase in the population of 70,668 persons.** Most (22) of the province's 29 regional districts in BC showed growth in population. Northern Rockies had the highest growth rate (+3.4%) over this period. Despite this rise, population in that region remains below the level recorded in 2006. As most immigrant landings in BC typically migrate to the economic hub of Greater Vancouver Regional District, it is not surprising that this region saw the largest share of population change in terms of actual numbers—an overall increase of 53,858 (2.3%) between 2009 and 2010. On the other end of the scale, the hardest hit regions were mainly localized to southern BC. Okanagan-Similkameen and Kootenay-Boundary shared the largest person-loss, each losing close to one percent of its population in 2010. *Data Source: BC Stats*

The Economy

- **Sales by British Columbia retailers rose for the fourth consecutive month, climbing 1.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Most business types saw improved sales with the most significant gains made by clothing & accessory stores (+4.8%), gasoline stations (+4.0%), and motor vehicle & parts dealers (+3.5%).

  Nationally, retail sales advanced 1.3% in November as nine provinces posted higher revenues. Sales in Alberta (+2.2%) and New Brunswick (+2.2%) advanced strongly during the month, while receipts were weaker in Nova Scotia (-0.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Wholesale sales in the province increased 0.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, more than reversing a 0.2% slip recorded in October.** Nationally, wholesalers posted a moderate 1.2% climb in sales with gains made in all but two provinces. PEI (+13.2%) and Saskatchewan (+9.6%) experienced the most significant boosts, while Ontario (-0.2%) and Nova Scotia (-0.2%) were the only provinces to see sales decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales of goods manufactured in British Columbia climbed 1.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, following a similar loss (-1.2%) in the previous month.** Producers of durable products (-0.6%) saw sales slip after an equally uneasy October (-0.9%). Sales of non-metallic minerals (-11.2%) and wood (-3.2%) were down substantially. Conversely, BC producers of transportation (+7.1%), machinery (+2.9%) and primary metal (+1.0%) products were among those who fared better.

  On the non-durables side, sales by manufacturers of paper (+13.5%) surged in November. This was only partly offset by lacklustre sales in the beverage & tobacco (-0.7%) industries. Overall shipments of non-durable goods jumped 3.6%.

  BC manufacturers were better off than those in some other provinces in November. Canadian shipments were down 0.8%, driven mostly by decreases in Ontario (-2.3%) and Alberta (-1.6%). Meanwhile, manufacturers

Report **Canada and India Start Discussion on Free Trade**

Did you know...

More than half (55%) of young Canadians aged 18 to 34 have already started saving for retirement. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

in PEI (+7.9%) and Manitoba (+7.6%) posted the strongest growth. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Investment in non-residential buildings in BC climbed (+2.4% *seasonally adjusted*) in the fourth quarter, bolstered by activity in Vancouver.** Spending on new industrial (+2.0%) and commercial (+4.7%) buildings in the province was robust, together managing to offset declines in the institutional & government (-1.3%) sector. Non-residential building construction activity showed strength in Vancouver (+7.2%), rising to $615 million. On the other hand, investment in Kelowna (-7.2% to $104 million), Victoria (-8.6% to $111 million) and Abbotsford-Mission (-17.4% to $17 million) slipped.

  Nationally, non-residential construction expenditures grew 2.0% in the fourth quarter, marking the third consecutive quarterly increase. In terms of dollar value, Ontario recorded the biggest increase (+4.6% to $4.3 billion), followed by BC. Spending was up most significantly in Newfoundland & Labrador (+23.6% to $103 million). Investment in new non-residential building projects was down in Alberta(-1.8%) and Quebec (-1.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits was 81,260 in November, 1.3% lower (*seasonally adjusted*) than the previous month.** Five provinces recorded fewer recipients, such that nationally, the number of Canadians receiving benefits decreased by 0.8% to 673,650.

  On a year-over-year basis, the number of beneficiaries in BC's three largest metropolitan areas were down in November. Victoria saw the most substantial decline (-15.2%) compared to November 2009, followed by Vancouver (-8.4%) and Abbotsford-Mission (-5.8%) *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Physical activity levels are low among Canadians, with approximately seven out of ten waking hours devoted to sedentary pursuits.** The average Canadian adult spends most of his or her awake-time (68% for men and 69% for women) sedentary. Total average daily sedentary time was 9.6 hours for men 9.8 hours for women. Overall, men and women engage in an average of about four hours per day of *light* physical activity. Meanwhile, just 15% of adults (17% of men and 14% of women) accumulate the recommended 150 minutes per week of moderate-to-vigorous activity.

  The data for youth painted a similar picture, with total daily sedentary time for Canadian children averaging 8.6 hours (507 minutes for boys and 524 minutes for girls), or 62% of their waking hours. Just eight percent of boys and a mere four percent of girls engage in the recommended amount of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week (60 minutes per day, at least six days a week). Sedentary time also rises with age.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada Cat. # 82-003XIE

The Nation

- **The nation's composite leading index rose 0.5% in December, marking the third consecutive month of growth.** Five of the ten components advanced, with much of the strength attributable to vigour in stock market prices (+2.8%) and the housing price index (+1.5%). On the other hand, the manufacturing sector showed continued weakness, reflected in fewer new orders for durable goods (-1.7%). However, the US leading index ended the year on a high note (+0.5%), which could mean an imminent strengthening of US demand for Canadian manufactured goods. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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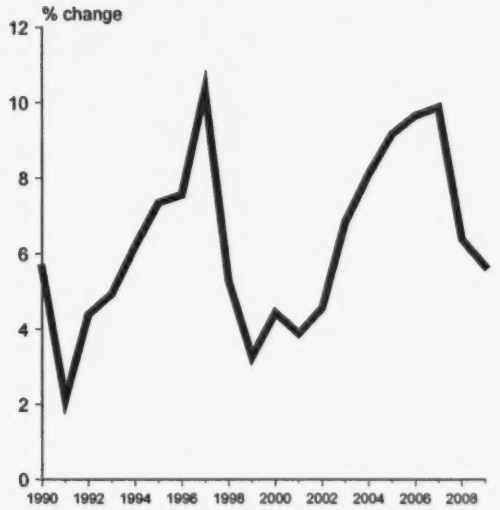
Originally published in
Exports, Issue 10-11

Canada and India Start Discussion on Free Trade

With one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India offers tremendous potential as a trade partner. In the last twenty years, India's annual real GDP growth has been less than 4% only three times and did not fall below 2% in any of those years. The 5.7% growth recorded in 2009 was the lowest rate of growth since 2002. By comparison, Canada's real GDP fell 2.5% in 2009 and has only exceeded 4% in five of the last twenty years.

India's real GDP has experienced robust growth over the last couple of decades



Source: International Monetary Fund

The size and growth of India's economy combined with the commonalities that country shares with Canada, such as the Commonwealth background, language, values and rule of law, make India an ideal trading partner for Canada. However, trade in goods and services between Canada and India has been relatively small, such that both countries feel that the "India-Canada trade relationship is significantly under-traded."[1] In order to address this issue, Canada and India launched free trade negotiations in November 2010.

A joint study performed by the governments of Canada and India estimated that the potential economic gains from a free trade agreement between the two countries would range from between US$6-15 billion for Canada and US$6-12 billion for India.[2] Given the relative symmetry of the potential gains, such an agreement would appear to represent a win-win scenario for the two countries.

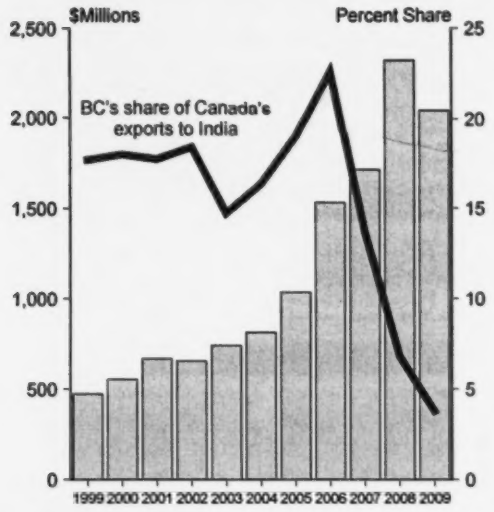
Canada's importance as a trading partner for India has fallen over the last decade, such that, in 2008, Canada was India's 30th most important trading partner. However, India's importance to Canada has increased. Prior to 2009, Canadian commodity exports to India experienced strong growth, more than tripling in value between 2003 and 2008. In 2009, the global economic downturn resulted in a 12% drop in exports to India from which levels have yet to recover.

British Columbia's share of Canadian exports to India has dropped precipitously, from a peak share of almost 23% in 2006 to less than 4% in 2009. The value of BC's goods exports to India fell from $346 million in 2006 to only $77 million in 2009. The goods mainly responsible for the sharp decline were ores, pulp and paper.

[1] Governments of Canada and India. *Canada-India Joint Study Group Report: Exploring the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.* September 24, 2010, p.2.

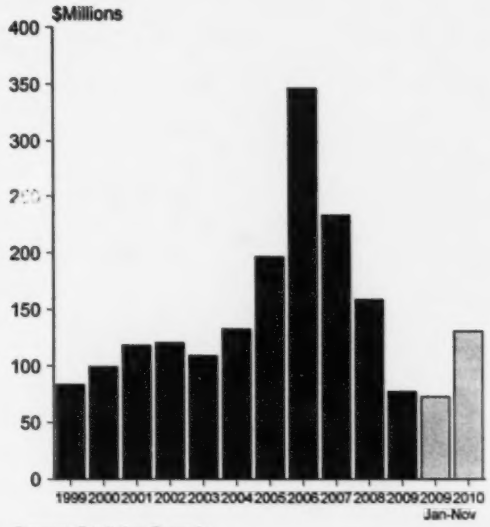
[2] Ibid, p. 7.

Canadian exports of goods to India have grown significantly in the last decade, but BC has been the origin of a declining share of those exports



Source: Statistics Canada

BC's exports of goods to India have fluctuated quite a bit in recent years



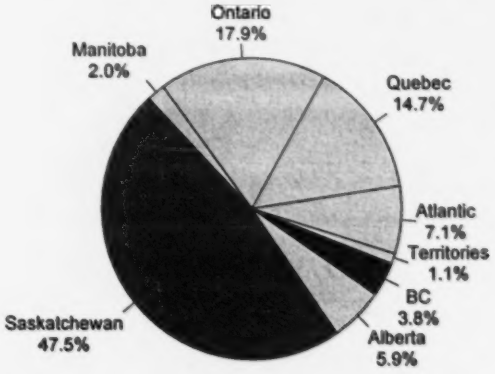
Source: Statistics Canada

Year-to-date in 2010, BC has recouped some of its share of the Indian market, with exports approximately doubling from 2009 levels and BC's share of Canadian exports also doubling to almost 8%. The rebound has been mainly due to growth in shipments of those same goods that were responsible for the drop in the first place, particularly copper ores and concentrates and pulp. It is likely that the economic downturn was at least partially responsible for the dramatic drop in Indian demand for these goods from British Columbia and as the economy has started to recover, so too has the demand for these resource-based goods.

Copper ores and concentrates (27% of BC's commodity exports to India in 2009) and pulp (22%) topped the list of BC's shipments to India, followed by newsprint (8%). There were also significant exports of used clothing, accounting for approximately 5% of BC's exports to India in 2009.

The decline in BC's share of Canadian exports to India seems to have been taken up mainly by Saskatchewan. In 2009, almost half (48%) of Canada's shipments to India originated in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan was the source of almost half of Canada's commodity exports to India in 2009

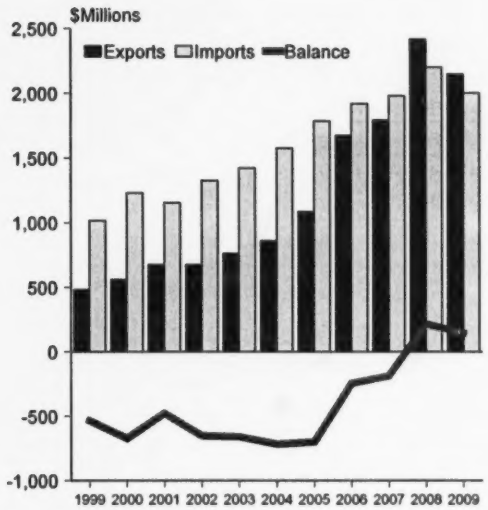


Source: Statistics Canada

The bulk of Saskatchewan's shipments to India consists of either peas, chickpeas and lentils (54.5%) or potash (45.3%). Machinery and equipment makes up the largest category of exports from Ontario to India, although about one fifth of the value of shipments in 2009 was comprised of gold. For Quebec, aircraft and parts were the top exported goods, comprising 23% of that province's exports to India in 2009.

The growth in Canadian exports to India has exceeded that of imports from that country in the last several years, such that Canada now has a small surplus in trade in goods with India, after recording deficits for 11 consecutive years.

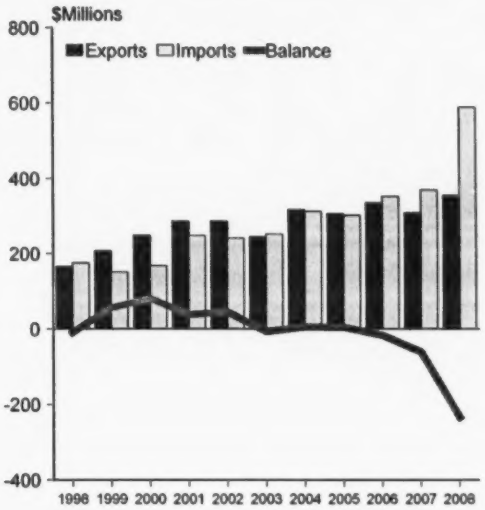
After years of deficits, Canada now has a surplus in trade in goods with India



Note: Exports include re-exports
Source: Statistics Canada

The opposite is true for trade in services for which imports have experienced most of the growth in the last few years, such that Canada has a growing deficit in services trade. Most of the growth in service imports from India has been in commercial services, particularly computer and information services, likely resulting from outsourcing by Canadian companies to service providers in India.

Canada has a deficit in trade in services with India



Source: Statistics Canada

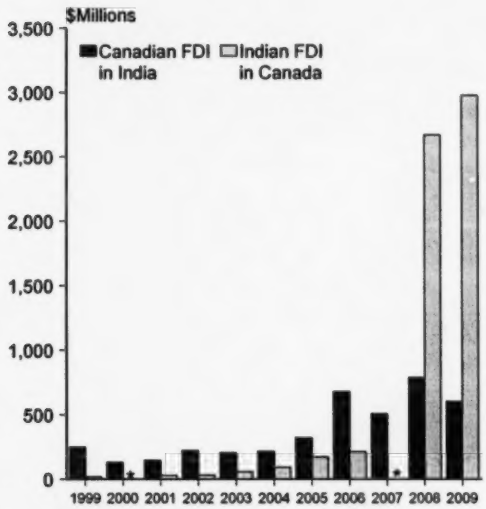
Although trade in services between Canada and India has shown some growth, it is still relatively quite small compared to trade with other countries with smaller economies than India. The same is true with regard to foreign direct investment.

Although there has been tremendous growth in terms of Indian direct investment in Canada in the last couple of years, from just over $200 million in 2006 to almost $3 billion in 2009, Canadian investment in India has remained small – just $600 million in 2009. Perhaps one reason for the reluctance on the part of Canadians to invest in India is that there remains a fairly high level of corruption in that country. According to Transparency International, an international organization whose goal is to fight corruption, India scores 87th out of 178 countries on the corruption scale.[3] India's Corrup-

[3] Transparency International, *Global Corruption Barometer*

tion Perception Index score was 3.3 (where 0 is totally corrupt and 10 denotes the complete absence of corruption), compared to 9.3 for top-ranked Denmark, New Zealand and Singapore and 8.9 for sixth-ranked Canada. Somalia, at 1.1, was ranked as the most corrupt country in the world.

Indians invest substantially more in Canada than Canadians invest in India



* Data suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements
Source: Statistics Canada

In addition to a significant perception that corruption exists in India, 74% of respondents thought that the level of corruption had increased in the last three years. Government institutions and the police were thought to be the most corrupt sectors with bribery being a fairly common practise. More than half (54%) of respondents reported paying a bribe for one of the services listed in the questionnaire, which (excluding Sub-Saharan Africa, where bribery is apparently rampant) was the fourth highest rate reported, slightly below that of Iraq, which had a rate of 56%, although well below Cambodia's rate of 84% and also lower than Afghanistan's rate of 61%. Given the risk averse nature of investors, the perception of corruption could certainly discourage investment.

While corruption may be a concern for Canadians doing business in India, there is the potential for significant economic gains to be made with the signing of a free trade agreement, including possibly opening the door to further trade with the rest of South and South East Asia. However, there are many roadblocks to overcome before an agreement can be reached. One of the more significant obstacles is with respect to government procurement, but other possible areas of conflict include certification and verification of origin of goods, trade and labour, and trade and environment. If Canada and India can overcome these disagreements and negotiate a comprehensive free trade agreement, both countries should realize significant economic benefits.

2010 Report. (www.transparency.org)

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This is a practical statistical course that covers the basic aspects of survey data analysis. This course will appeal to novice analysts and those who are required to interpret statistical findings. It provides an overview of basic types of research as well as analytical requirements. This is followed by a short treatment of survey sampling and types of data.

Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

VANCOUVER

February 3-4, 2011
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

2nd Floor (Library Square)
300 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $550 + taxes

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Workshop Topics include:

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- Survey design and sampling methods
- Types of Data
- Confidence intervals
- Grouping and graphic data
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VICTORIA

February 16-17, 2011
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Rm. 402, PWGSC
1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $550 + taxes

Early registration: $499 + taxes (at least 3 weeks prior)

Workshop Topics include:

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- Survey design and sampling methods
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Canada

Infoline

January 21, 2011
Issue 11–03

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,551.9	1.5
Canada	34,238.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2010	3,012	1.5
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2010	2,407	-1.6
Retail Sales - Nov 2010	4,950	1.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.2	1.2
Vancouver	2.6	1.6
Victoria	2.0	0.9
Canada	2.0	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2010	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-22.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,492.9	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,303.6	-1.0
Unemployed - BC	189.3	9.4
		Nov 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.6	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 19/2011	Jan 20/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.35	3.60
- 5 year	5.19	5.49
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 19/2011	Jan 20/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9939	1.0478
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0045	0.9551
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2010	one year ago
BC	819.14	0.5
Canada	830.22	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

2010 estimates of population for municipalities, regional districts and development regions are now available. Estimates for 2006 to 2009 have also been revised.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/mun/CurrentPopulationEstimates.pdf

Science Related Occupations

How many people work in science-related occupations? Which industries employ them? What's the labour market outlook for workers in these occupations? A recently-released report on science-related occupations explores these issues. On WorkBC site; authored by BC Stats.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_Science_Related_Occupations.pdf

Trade Occupations Outlook to 2019

The BC Trade Occupations Outlook report provides an outlook for trade occupations for the province as a whole, as well as for its seven development regions for the period 2009-2019. The analysis is based on a representative list of 15 trade occupations covering 82 separate trades and over 85 percent of active B.C. apprentices as of June 30, 2010. Selected occupations are concentrated in two NOC skill types: Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations (NOC7), and Sales and Service Occupations (NOC6). The occupational forecast included in this report comes from the B.C. Labour Market Outlook: 2009-2019 report, which was produced from B.C.'s new Labour Market Scenario Model.

http://workbc.ca/docs/BC_tradesoccupationoutlook_2009-2019.pdf

Small Business Profile 2010

The 2010 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on British Columbia's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No periodical releases

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, December 2010
  We will also update annual CPI tables on our site

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